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www.ikv.org.tr / contact: ikv@ikv.org.tr

75.5 PERCENT OF TURKISH CITIZENS SUPPORT EU MEMBERSHIP

The level of support for EU membership among Turkish citizens rose 13 points over the last year. Since Turkey-EU relations have been revitalised in the context of the refugee crisis and the visa liberalisation process, this increase may be interpreted as a clear testimony of the public opinion's support for this process.

Since last year, İKV has commissioned a survey which is conducted by Realta Research Company with the aim of identifying the level of information and awareness among the Turkish public opinion on the EU and further analysing the support for Turkey's EU membership. The last survey was conducted on 23-24 April 2016 in 18 provinces of Turkey with a participation of a total of 1254 persons among which 42.6 percent were women.

The main outcomes of this survey are as follows:

- Over the past year, the support for EU membership has increased to 75.5 percent in 2016. Whilst the level of support was 61.8 percent in 2015, it can be observed that the level of support rose 13 points this year.
- While 9 out of 10 participants to the survey have stated that



- they have heard of the EU before, 85 percent of participants declared that they have "none" or "little" knowledge of the EU. This indicates a lack of general information as regards to the EU within the Turkish public opinion.
- In geographical terms, the level

of knowledge on the EU is high in South Eastern Anatolia and Black Sea Regions. It can also be observed that the level of knowledge on the EU is higher within the middle age population (31-44 age group) in contrast to

younger age groups (18-22 age group).

- Similar to last year's results, the main sources of information as regards to the EU are traditional media tools such as the television, newspapers and radio. The internet remains also a widely-used tool to search for information related to the EU. In contrast, it can be noted that the official institutions of the EU and Turkey are still not considered as primary sources of information among public opinion.
- Whilst 75.5 percent of the Turkish public opinion is supporting Turkey's EU membership, the expectation that Turkey's EU membership will actually take place in the near future has decreased to 35.6 percent of the participants to the survey and only 33.8 percent expect that Turkey will join the EU within the next five years.

- In parallel to the increase in support for EU membership, the share of those believing that Turkey will become an EU Member rose from 23 percent to 33.8 percent compared to last year.
- As regards to the level of support granted to Turkey's EU membership, there is a rather mixed picture from the geographical point of view. With a rate of 89.7 percent, South Eastern Anatolia is the region with the highest percentage regarding positive expectation about Turkey's EU membership while the Central Anatolian region has the lowest rate of positive expectation with 65.6 percent.
- Taking into consideration the age range, it can be observed that the population under the age of 45 is showing more support and has a higher rate of belief for Turkey's EU membership. **PAGE 2**

TURKISH BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS LOST A GREAT PIONEER: VISIONARY BUSINESSMAN İBRAHİM BODUR PASSED AWAY AT AGE 88



Born in 1928 in Çanakkale, İbrahim Bodur graduated from Robert College and completed his MBA in the United States. Once he returned in Turkey, he founded the Bodur-Eğincioğlu EdirneKapı Cotton Factory in 1951 and then Turkey's first ceramic factory in 1976.

Bodur founded Kale Holding in 1973 which constitutes one of the largest businesses in Turkey with a total of 17 companies. The main activities of the group focused on ceramics along with machine

manufacturing, defence, chemicals, electronics, energy, transport, tourism and agriculture. Today it represents Europe's 3rd largest and the world's 12th largest ceramic producer.

In 1962, Bodur was elected as a member of Istanbul Chamber of Industry (İSO) and in 1969 he joined the ranks of TOBB Board of Directors. Between 1969 and 1975, he chaired TOBB's Executive Board. Bodur was also the longest serving Assembly President of İSO from 1976

till 1992. Bodur contributed tremendously to Turkish economy and industry and has figured among the founders of TOBB, İKV, TÜSİAD and DEİK.

For his outstanding contributions to the Turkish economy, Bodur has been awarded in 1997 the State Medal of Distinguished Service of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Grand National Assembly's Distinguished Service Prize in 2006. He has also been awarded numerous distinctions by foreign states.

We, as İKV, deeply regret the loss of one of the doyens of the Turkish private sector, the Founder and Honorary President of the Kale Group, one of our Founders and at the same time father of our Vice-President Zeynep Bodur Okay, Dr. Hacı İbrahim Bodur who has tremendously contributed not only to the economic, social and cultural spheres of our country but also to Turkey-EU relations. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and to the Turkish business community.



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FROM THE FIRST PAGE

- Among the main reasons behind the support for Turkey's EU membership are the prospect of more welfare and further economic development as well as free movement, right of settlement and educational opportunities. These are followed by the consolidation of democracy and human rights. For the 18-30 age groups, the expectation of increased opportunity for free movement is high. On the other hand, when analysing the reasons for opposing to EU membership, the EU's double standard approach to Turkey (21.2 percent) and the fear that Turkish culture and identity would be weakened with EU membership (26.8 percent) are among the reasons coming to the forefront.
- 35.2 percent of participants indicated that "free movement" would be the most important contribution of EU membership to Turkey while 42.7 percent of participants pointed out to "new job opportunities" as the main significant contribution. On the other hand, 13.8 percent of participants declared that EU membership would present no benefit at all for Turkey.

LAUNCH OF THE TRANS-ADRIATIC PIPELINE PROJECT

On 17 May 2016, under the auspices of Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, the launch of the Construction Ceremony of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline Project (TAP) was held in Thessaloniki, Greece. Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey Berat Albayrak, along with leaders and high representatives from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Albania, the United States, Italy, Bulgaria and Switzerland participated to the ceremony.

Highlighting the economic potential of the project, Greek Prime Minister Tsipras explained that TAP would contribute in the reinforcement of relations between Greece and the EU. Vice-President of the Commission Šefčovič stated that TAP constitutes one of the priority projects of the Energy Union. Minister of Energy Albayrak pointed out to the need of establishing a more secure and sustainable energy market in the region. Minister Albayrak also added that TAP along with TANAP would contribute to the development of a more efficient, competitive and reliable market and to the creation of an international added value for the region.

IKV CONTINUES WITH ITS HORIZON TOUR ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS ACROSS TURKEY

During May, IKV continued to organise a series of seminars within the framework of the project entitled "A Horizon Tour on Turkey-EU Relations: New Dimensions, New Objectives"

Turkey-EU Relations discussed in the Marmara Region

IKV organised a seminar in Kocaeli on 9 May 2016 in cooperation with Kocaeli Chamber of Industry (KOSANO) and in Bursa on 9 May 2016 with Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BTSO) respectively.

In Kocaeli, the opening speech was delivered by KOSANO and IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu who revealed information regarding the various activities and projects carried out by IKV. Within this framework, he shared for the first time the results of a survey commissioned by IKV which aims to analyse the support for Turkey's EU membership among the Turkish public opinion. The survey reveals that 75.5 percent of the Turkish public opinion is supporting Turkey's EU membership, compared to 61.8 percent obtained in the survey conducted last year. This increase reflects the new dynamism in Turkey-EU relations following the refugee crisis and the increased cooperation between Turkey and the EU. However IKV Chairman pointed out that the expectation for EU membership still remains low with 35.6 percent this year.

Following the opening speech, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas explained the different phases of Turkey's EU accession process. She also assessed the current situation in the Turkey-EU negotiations process and the challenges ahead in Turkey-EU relations. Assessing the current state of play in the negotiations, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Nas

explained that the refugee crisis gave an important impetus to Turkey-EU relations, especially in terms of accelerating the visa liberalisation process and the possibility of opening new chapters. She also pointed out that the signature of the Readmission Agreement and the decision to modernise the Customs Union were important factors behind the new wave of dynamism in Turkey-EU relations.

IKV Junior Researcher Ahmet Ceran gave a presentation regarding the Turkey-EU Visa Liberalisation Dialogue and the refugee crisis faced by both parties. He informed the participants about the 72 criteria which need to be fulfilled by the Turkish authorities for Turkish citizens to access the EU visa-free. He also presented the main outcomes of the third report assessing the progress achieved by Turkey in terms of fulfilling the requirements of its visa liberalisation roadmap. Within this respect, he explained that Turkey needs to take additional measures to fulfill the requirements of 5 remaining criteria related to corruption, personal data protection, operational cooperation agreement with Europol, effective judicial cooperation in criminal matters to EU Member States and legislation on terrorism. Furthermore, he also drew the attention to the importance for the Turkish business world, civil society and public opinion to put further pressure on EU decision-makers in order to achieve the lifting of visa obstacles against Turkish citizens.

IKV Senior Researcher Selen Akses informed the participants about the need to update the Customs Union



and the process which awaits Turkey. In this respect, she pointed out to the problems encountered within the current way of functioning of the Customs Union. She explained that the need to revise the framework and the scope of the Customs Union has arisen especially due to changes in the world trading systems and also in Turkey and the EU's economic and trade interests. IKV Senior Researcher Akses stressed that although Turkey has to align its trade policy with the EU's preferential trade regime; Turkey is not included in the decision-making process and the negotiations of free trade agreements conducted by the EU with third countries. This creates an asymmetric situation in disfavour of Turkey. These concerns have increased following the launch of the TTIP negotiations between the EU and the United States.

IKV Project Director Çișel İleri gave a presentation on EU funds and financial assistance to Turkey. She shared detailed information about IPA funds within the context of the financial assistance and indicated that Turkey will benefit from an assistance amounting to 4.454 million euros for the period covering 2014-2020. Furthermore, IKV Project Director İleri also explained that Turkey could benefit from an important financial resource by participating to EU Programs. By submitting project proposals to these Programmes, Turkish businesses, SMEs, NGOs, students, entrepreneurs and other related groups can benefit from a financial pool amounting to a total of 100 billion euros.

In Bursa, the opening speech was delivered by Member of the Board of Directors of the BTSO Aytuğ Onur who explained that the EU is Turkey's main trade partner and that Bursa has strong trade relations with EU Member States. Lastly, he referred to the visa problem encountered by Turkish businessmen and thus stressed the importance of lifting the visa requirement for Turkish citizens.

As the keynote speaker of

the seminar, Political Counsellor at the Delegation of the EU to Turkey, Vincent-Guillaume Poupeau explained that the removal of the visa will give the opportunity for Europeans and Turkish citizens to better know and understand each other.

Latest developments in Turkey-EU relations were assessed in the Mediterranean Region

IKV organised a seminar in Mersin on 17 May 2016 in cooperation with Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MTSO) and in Adana on 18 May 2016 with Adana Chamber of Commerce.

The seminar in Mersin was held with the participation MTSO Chairman Şerafettin Aşut and Mersin Deputy Governor Aylin Kırıcı Duman. For the seminar organised in Adana, Chairman of Adana Chamber of Commerce and IKV Member of the Board Responsible for Accounts Atıla Menevşe presented the activities carried out by IKV. He also touched upon to the recent important developments in Turkey-EU relations with a special focus on the visa liberalisation process and the revision of Turkey-EU Customs Union.

During these seminars, recent developments in Turkey-EU relations, the revision of the Customs Union, the visa liberalisation dialogue and Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement were discussed and information about EU funds and EU Programmes were also presented.

In these seminars, Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas pointed to the different challenges faced within Turkey-EU relations. In this respect, she touched upon the EU's integration capacity, issues relating to identity and culture, the EU's perception of Turkey, the EU's internal problems due to the economic and political crises, the EU's enlargement fatigue as well as Turkey's changing internal and external priorities.



İKİV DELEGATION VISITED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

An İKV Delegation led by İKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu visited the European Parliament to meet several Members of the Parliament on 24 May 2016.



In this visit to the European Parliament, İKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu was accompanied by Vice-Chairman Prof. Haluk Kabaaloğlu, Members of the Board of Directors İlhan Soylu and Mustafa İzçö, Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray and Project Director Çișel İleri.

İKİV Delegation met representatives of the cabinet of the President of the European Parliament and then discussed the current situation in Turkey-EU relations with Turkey Rapporteur Kati Piri. In these meetings, EU-Turkey relations, the visa liberalisation dialogue and the migration crisis were the main topics approached.

İKİV Chairman Zeytinoğlu firstly mentioned the importance of the visa liberalisation process which will enable Turkish citizens to gain the right to travel visa-free in Europe. He also touched upon the need for a modernised Customs Union between Turkey and the EU, with its scope extended to new areas such as agriculture, services and public procurement. He also stressed that with the modernisation of the Customs Union, it is essential to overcome the problems encountered by Turkey caused by the application of transport quotas, to its absence in the negotiation of free trade agreements by the EU with third country and in the decision-making process. İKV

Chairman Zeytinoğlu also pointed out to the importance for Turkey to be integrated in the TTIP process.

İKİV Vice-Chairman Prof. Kabaaloğlu reminded that the ongoing situation regarding visa requirements goes in contradiction with international law: While goods can travel freely to Europe by way of the Custom Union, the businessmen who produce and sell them cannot freely move across Europe because of the visa barrier. Additionally, he also emphasised that the Custom Union was supposed to be the last step leading to accession and that its current form is obsolete for a country which represents the 6th European economy.

İKİV Delegation has met several Members of the European Parliament from the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee " as well as several political advisors, with the aim of exchanging views on the current state of play in Turkey-EU relations. Shadow Rapporteurs on Turkey Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE-NGL) and Bodil Valero (Greens) along with Costas Mavrides (S&D) and İsmail Ertuğ (S&D) were also present at the meeting. The accession process, visa liberalisation, the refugee crisis, the revision of the Custom Union and the impact of TTIP on Turkey were the main topics discussed during this meeting.

This was also the occasion to officially launch the third edition of

the "European Parliamentarians and Turkish Civil Society: Dialogue for Better Understanding Each Other", a project started in 2008 to create a platform of exchange between Turkish civil society and Members of the European Parliament, with a view to overcome prejudices and misconceptions about the EU and Turkey.

Lastly, İKV Delegation met with Members of the Parliament, Renate Sommer (EPP) and Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (ALDE) who are both Shadow Rapporteurs on Turkey. Sommer observed that there is an absolute need for closer cooperation between Turkey and the EU. Lambsdorff pointed out that Turkey's accession to the EU has been a very complicated process compared to that of other countries. In this respect, he explained that Turkey has its own domestic and international problems and that the public opinion in the EU in regards to Turkey is currently negative. Nevertheless, he stressed that it is of great importance for both parties to maintain a close, continuous dialogue and create new mechanisms of collaboration. Finally, Lambsdorff stressed the fact that the potentiality of a Brexit will be central in the close future and that this represents an important development in the EU which would also affect Turkey-EU relations.

TIMELINE MAY 2016

1	
2	İKİV Brussels Representative attended the workshop of Civil Society Dialogue (2-3 May)
3	
4	Publication of the Third Report on visa liberalisation roadmap
5	
6	TÜSİAD President's visit to İKV
7	İKİV Brief on the Five Remaining Criteria for Visa-free Europe
8	Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu's visit to the Friends of Syria Group in Paris
9	İKİV assessed the current Turkey-EU relations in Kocaeli and Bursa (9 -10 May)
10	The then Minister for EU Affairs Bozıkır's visit to Strasbourg (10-12 May)
11	72 nd General Assembly of TOBB was held
12	İKİV attended the Local Schengen Group Meeting in Tekirdağ
13	The then Minister for EU Affairs Bozıkır's visit to Brussels (12-13 May)
14	
15	
16	Minister Çavuşoğlu's visit to the International Syria Support Group Meeting in Vienna
17	İKİV tackled Turkey-EU relations in Mersin and Adana (17-18 May)
18	Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the 126 th Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
19	Law on Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement ratified by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
20	
21	
22	
23	Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul (23-24 May)
24	İKİV Delegation's visit to the European Parliament
25	65 th Government was formed under the new Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım
26	Newly appointed Minister for EU Affairs Ömer Çelik took over the post from his predecessor H.E. Ambassador Bozıkır
27	Minister Çelik met European Commission First Vice-President Timmermans in Antalya (27-29 May)
28	
29	
30	İKİV discussed Turkey-EU relations in Amsterdam
31	The 124 th Meeting of the EU-Turkey Association Committee took place in Brussels

IKV ORGANISED A SEMINAR ON TURKEY-EU RELATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS

IKV organised a seminar entitled "Turkey and the EU: Common Interests or Divergent Paths?" with the cooperation of the Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance (ACELG) in Amsterdam on 30 May 2016.



The seminar was realised within the framework of IKV's project on EU Presidencies, which aims to contribute to the Turkey-EU accession negotiations process by raising awareness and providing more information on Turkey-EU relations in countries that have taken over the EU presidency.

Relations between Turkey and the EU have been re-energised recently over the refugee deal. The seminar hosting experts on Turkey-EU relations from academia and civil society aimed to contribute to debates about the current state of Turkey's EU perspective with an emphasis on the accession process and the association regime as well as on the ongoing areas of cooperation between both parties i.e. the updating of the Customs Union, the agreement on the refugee action plan and the visa liberalisation process.

The seminar started with the opening speeches of Prof. Tom Eijsbouts from the University of Amsterdam and IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu. While Prof.

Eijsbouts expressed his gratitude to IKV for the organisation of this timely seminar, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu provided information about IKV's activities and its projects. During his opening speech, IKV Chairman Zeytinoğlu also mentioned about IKV's recent survey, which indicated that the support for EU membership has increased to 75.5 percent in 2016 owing to the re-energised relations among both parties.

The first session started with the moderation of IKV Vice-Chairman and Dean of Yeditepe University Faculty of Law Prof. Halûk Kabaaloğlu and presentations of Prof. Vilenas Vadapalas, Former Judge at the European Court of Justice, Assoc. Prof. Katalin Cseres from ACELG, and Assoc. Prof. Sait Akman from TEPAV's Centre for Multilateral Trade Studies. In his presentation, Prof. Vadapalas tackled the revision of the Customs Union from a legal perspective and Assoc. Prof. Cseres from the angle of the competition law. Assoc. Prof. Akman focused on the issues

related to the deepening of the integration of Turkey in the EU. In this respect, he underlined the importance of the updating of the Customs Union so as to enable Turkey to overcome the challenges of the EU's dynamic related to trade policy.

In the second session, Assoc. Prof. Thomas Vandamme and Assoc. Prof. Ronald van Ooik from ACELG and Prof. Sanem Baykal from the University of Ankara discussed the pending issues in Turkey-EU relations. In her presentation, Prof. Baykal mentioned that the visa liberalisation process enabled Turkey to pass long waited laws.

The last session of the seminar, IKV Secretary-General and Vice-Chair of the department of Political Science and International Relations at Yıldız Technical University Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas and Senior Advisor of European Foundation for Democracy Dr. Demir Murat Seyrek discussed about the recent developments related to the Turkey-EU Action Plan.

IKV'S NEW PUBLICATION ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF SERVICES

A study entitled "The free movement of services: Turkey-EU accession negotiations and the revision of the Customs Union" (in Turkish) written by IKV Junior Researcher Büşra Çatır was published in May.

The publication covers five main topics which can be described as follows: the free movement of services in the EU, the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, the free movement of services within Turkey's EU accession process, the new trends in global trade with a focus on the service sector and the challenges and opportunities presented with the inclusion of the

services in the scope of Turkey-EU Customs Union.

This analysis of the legislation and practices in the EU will help better assess Turkey's alignment level in the area of free movement of services. Furthermore, the presentation of the various possible scenarios on how to integrate the service sector in the Customs Union will help also better understand the opportunities and the challenges ahead for Turkey. This publication which gives an insight of the situation of the Turkish services sector will constitute an important source within Turkey's EU accession process and the revision of the Customs Union.



TUSIAD PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO IKV

TUSIAD President Cansen Başaran-Symes paid a visit to IKV Chairman Ayhan Zeytinoğlu on 6 May 2016. TUSIAD and IKV Board Member Simone Kaslowski, TUSIAD Secretary-General Zafer Yavan, IKV Secretary-General Assoc. Prof. Çiğdem Nas, TUSIAD Deputy Secretary-General Hale Hatipoğlu, IKV Project Manager Çisel İleri and Head of TUSIAD's external political relations

department Zafer Gazi also attended the meeting. The two Presidents Başaran-Symes and Zeytinoğlu discussed areas of cooperation and possibility for joint projects between the two institutions and exchanged views on the current state of Turkey-EU relations. TUSIAD, a leading business organization in Turkey and member of BUSINNESSEUROPE is a trustee organization for IKV.

EUROPE DAY CELEBRATED IN ISTANBUL

Various events were organised in different cities across Turkey on 9 May 2016 with the aim of celebrating the Europe Day. Within this framework, IKV Istanbul EU Information Center (EUIC) realised a series of cultural events at Bahçeşehir University. In that respect, a painting contest which saw broad participation from a variety of students along

with a music recital of Turkish folk music was held. During the celebration, there was also a dance performance from the Kalkedon Flamenko.

At the occasion of this event, Istanbul EUIC opened a stand where it presented leaflets related to EU institutions and Turkey-EU relations along with Turkey's EU accession process.



THE 72nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF TOBB WAS HELD

At the General Assembly, TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu's main message was to maintain and strengthen Turkey's reform agenda and to undertake these reforms with unity of thought and solidarity.

The 72nd General Assembly of TOBB was held in Ankara on 11 May 2016. Minister of Finance Naci Ağbal, Minister of Interior Efkân Ala, Minister of Customs and Trade Bülent Tüfenkci, the then Minister of Economy Mustafa Elitaş, CHP President Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, MHP Deputy Chairman Oktay Vural and some other former Ministers along with Presidents of Chambers and Exchanges attended the General Assembly meeting hosted by TOBB President M. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu.

At the General Assembly, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu presented the achievements made by TOBB. In this respect, he stressed that TOBB succeeded in having a voice

within all global business organisations which are playing an active role in global markets.

In the light of economic developments and the increase of global competition, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu emphasised the need to establish a new growth and industrialisation model for Turkey and thus to focus on a comprehensive reform programme.

In this respect, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu pointed out the importance to establish new arbitration and mediation mechanisms that will better tackle trade disputes. He also stressed that the investment incentive system should be revised in accordance

with the new economic conjuncture. Investments are particularly encouraged in the field of information and communication technologies, biotechnology and nanotechnology. Furthermore TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu gave the message that Turkey needs also to increase its presence in the global market by investing more abroad.

Pointing out to the importance for Turkey to increase its export volume, he also urged for changing Turkey's export system by producing more high value added goods and to explore new market opportunities. TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu also explained that in this model a special

focus should be given to SMEs not only to help them increase their export but also to ensure their smooth adaptation to the digital economy (especially in terms of e-commerce).

Within this comprehensive reform programme, it is of utmost importance to take measures to fight against informal economy, to reduce the costs of doing business, to reinforce the vocational training and to encourage entrepreneurship. On the other hand, TOBB President Hisarcıkloğlu also stressed that the lifting of visa obligation for Turkish citizens and Turkey's inclusion in the TTIP process would have enormous benefits for Turkey's economy.



IKV REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATED AT A WORKSHOP ON CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray attended the Dialogue for Effective Communication on EU Issues Workshop which was held in Ankara on 2-3 May 2016 within the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue initiative. This workshop was organised with the aim of bringing together representatives from the media, civil society organisations and public institutions and informing the public regarding the effect of EU accession reforms in citizens' daily lives.

The opening remarks of the workshop were realised by Deputy Undersecretary of Ministry for EU Affairs Dr. Mehmet Cangir who stressed the importance of the active participation of local authorities in the process of creating an effective dialogue between the institutions. Deputy Undersecretary Cangir also added that over 350 projects have been realised within the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue initiative through IPA funds.

IKV Brussels Representative Haluk Nuray was one of the discussants of the first panel in which the role of media, civil society organisations and the public in the EU countries was discussed. He was accompanied in the panel by Brussels Representative of the European Network for Independent Living Marco Carnesecchi and honorary founding Chairperson of the Europe Press Club Maria Laura.

AK PARTY CHAIRMAN YILDIRIM FORMS THE 65th GOVERNMENT

Following Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu's announcement of his decision to step down as the Chairman of the ruling AK Party earlier this month, the party held an extraordinary congress to elect a new chairman. İzmir Deputy and Minister for Transport, Maritime Affairs Communications in the 64th Government Binali Yıldırım was elected as the new Chairman of the AK Party in the extraordinary congress held on 22 May 2016. Following his election as the new leader of the AK Party, Yıldırım was mandated by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to form the 65th Government. On 24 May 2016, the newly appointed Prime Minister Yıldırım unveiled the new cabinet as approved by President Erdoğan.

Who is who in the new cabinet?

The new cabinet, which has

26 members under the leadership of Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, features nine new ministers while four ministers from the previous cabinet have been re-seated. The Deputy Prime Ministers in the new cabinet are Nurettin Canikli, Mehmet Şimşek, Tuğrul Türkeş, Veysi Kaynak and Numan Kurtulmuş. On the other hand, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of the Interior Efkân Ala, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Berat Albayrak and Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdağ are among the names that have retained their respective roles in the new cabinet.

Nihat Zeybekci has been named as the Minister of Economy replacing Mustafa Elitaş while Fatma Betül Sayan has been appointed as the new Minister of Family and Social Policy replacing

Sema Ramazanoğlu as the only woman in the cabinet. Former Minister of National Education Nabi Avcı has been named as the new Minister of Culture and Tourism, former Minister of National Defence İsmet Yılmaz was named as Minister of National Education, former Minister of Science, Industry and Technology Fikri Işık has been appointed as Minister of National Defence and former Deputy Prime Minister Lütfi Elvan has been named as Minister of Development.

Former Minister of Culture and Tourism, AK Party Spokesman and Adana Deputy, Ömer Çelik has been appointed as the new Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator replacing Ambassador H.E. Volkan Bozkır. On 25 May 2016, the newly appointed Minister for EU Affairs Çelik took over the post from his



predecessor Ambassador H.E. Bozkır.

On behalf of IKV, we would like to congratulate all members of the newly formed 65th Government of the Republic of Turkey, especially Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım. We would like also to congratulate Ömer Çelik

for his new appointment as the Minister of EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator. We want also to thank Ambassador H.E. Volkan Bozkır for all the previous work he has conducted while serving as the Minister of EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator.

THIRD VISA LIBERALISATION REPORT RECOMMENDS LIFTING OF VISA REQUIREMENT FOR TURKS

The European Commission published on 4 May 2016 its third Report assessing the progress achieved by Turkey in terms of fulfilling the requirements of its visa liberalisation roadmap.

As it is known, this Roadmap sets out the requirements that Turkey needs to meet in order for the European Parliament and the EU Council to put Turkey on the visa-free list for short stays in the Schengen area. In the report, the progress realised by Turkey in meeting the 72 criteria of the visa liberalisation roadmap has been assessed.

According to the assessments of the Commission, Turkey has fulfilled 65 of the 72 technical criteria. However 5 criteria remain to be fulfilled and a longer timeframe is needed for the implementation of 2 other criteria because of practical and procedural reasons. These two criteria are the following: "Upgrading of the existing biometric passports" and "implementing the provisions of the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement". Nevertheless, the Commission has tabled a legislative proposal to enable the Parliament and Council

to take the necessary decisions to allow Turkish citizens to travel without a visa for short stays in the Schengen area, once all the requirements have been met by Turkey.

The visa liberalisation dialogue has accelerated after the meetings of the Heads of State or Government of the EU and Turkey on 7 March and 18 March. During these meetings, both parties have agreed on the implementation of the refugee deal and on the acceleration of the visa liberalisation dialogue with a view to lifting the visa requirements for Turkish citizens by the end of June 2016 at the latest.

5 Remaining Criteria to be Fulfilled

Following the re-energisation of Turkey-EU relations, Turkish authorities have put great effort towards fulfilling the remaining criteria and carried out significant



legislative reforms. Nonetheless, Turkey still needs to fulfill the 5 remaining criteria for which the Commission argued there is a lack of alignment with EU standards and the acquis.

The 5 remaining criteria are as follows: "Adopting further measures in line with GRECO recommendations to prevent corruption"; "aligning the legislation on personal data protection with EU standards"; "concluding an operational cooperation agreement

with Europol"; "offering effective judicial cooperation in criminal matters to all EU Member States"; "revising the legislation and practices on terrorism in line with European standards".

What is Next?

With the implementation of the remaining benchmarks, co-legislation procedure is expected to be applied. The visa liberalisation issue would be put on the Parliament and the Council's

agenda. In order to assist the co-legislators in their deliberations, the Commission will continue to monitor the steps.

At the end of the process, visa-free travel towards Turkish citizens would be voted both at the Parliament and the Council. If qualified majority of the Council vote in favour; short term visa-free travel maximum of 90 days for touristic, educational and business purposes will be ensured for Turkish citizens.

LAW ON TURKEY-EU READMISSION AGREEMENT RATIFIED

The Law on the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement has been ratified by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on 18 May 2016. The Readmission Agreement foresaw a return mechanism towards third country citizens residing in the EU without authorisation or entering the EU from Turkey by irregular means and

vice versa. The aim of readmission is to stop irregular migration and prevent the tragic incidents which are taking place in the Aegean Sea. "Implementing the provisions of the Turkey-EU Readmission Agreement" also appears as one of the remaining criteria of the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap.

TURKEY LIFTS VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS

On 2 May 2016, the cabinet approved lifting the visa requirements for all EU citizens, applicable from the date on which the EU lifts its visa requirements for Turkish citizens. In line with this decision, visa requirements for Greek Cypriots were also lifted.

Turkish officials clarified that although the visa waiver will apply to the Greek Cypriots, this would not amount to the recognition of the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus. Lifting the visa requirement for all EU citizens is one of the

72 criteria outlined in the visa liberalisation roadmap which Turkey needs to fulfill in order to be granted visa-free travel for its citizens.

As mentioned in the article above, Turkey still has to fulfill 5 remaining criteria for the visa liberalisation process.

ISTANBUL HOSTED THE FIRST HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT OF THE UN

Around 9,000 participants from 173 Member States, including the Heads of State, representatives from the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organisations attended the first World Humanitarian Summit, held on 23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul.

The participants agreed that a complementary approach to humanitarian assistance is required in order to adequately address and sustainably reduce the needs of the world's most vulnerable people. The two-day summit underscored the need for addressing the root causes, increasing political diplomacy for prevention and conflict resolution and bringing humanitarian,

development and peace-building efforts together.

Seven High-Level Leaders' Roundtables provided opportunities to make commitments and announce bold actions in support of the core responsibilities of the Agenda for Humanity. Roundtables were organised around the following topics: "Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflict", "Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity", "Leaving No One Behind - A Commitment to Address Forced Displacement", "Women and Girls - Catalysing Action to Achieve Gender Equality", "Natural Disasters and Climate Change - Managing Risks and Crises Differently",



"Changing People's Lives - From Delivering Aid to Ending Need" and "Humanitarian Financing - Investing in Humanity".

The World Humanitarian Summit has generated global momentum and political will to

move forward on the Agenda for Humanity and to deliver better results for people across the globe. Take-away conclusions from roundtables reside in the recognition that political will is paramount to effectively prevent and end conflicts, to address the root causes, to reduce fragility and strengthen good governance. The Summit demonstrated the international community's determination to leave no one behind in the quest for sustainable development for all. The Summit reaffirmed support from all stakeholders to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Based on their comparative advantage,

all actors must work collectively to reduce need, vulnerability and risk, and support national and local efforts, while ensuring respect for humanitarian principles. The Summit recognised the pivotal role of financing as the key catalytic factor towards meeting and reducing needs.

Moving forward, all commitments made will be reflected in a "Commitments to Action" platform. This platform will be publicly accessible and serve as an accountability instrument. Progress towards the implementation of commitments made on the "Agenda for Humanity" will be reviewed annually and assessed by 2020.

STRONG REACTION FROM THE EU ON THE LIFTING OF PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITIES

The Justice and Development Party submitted a constitutional amendment for the lifting of parliamentary immunity. This amendment was adopted on 20 May 2016 by the Turkish Parliament with a vote of 376 in favour and 140 against. The amendment will enter into force once it will be approved by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Turkey.

Since the adoption of this amendment, European leaders

have raised serious concerns about this decision of lifting parliamentary immunity. They are worried that this decision could threaten freedom of expression of the Members of the Parliament. With the entry into force of this amendment, many members of the Republican People's Party and People's Democratic Party are considered under the risk of being prosecuted. In this respect, a joint statement was made by High Representative and Vice-President

of the Commission Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Johannes Hahn following the decision of the Turkish Parliament to lift the parliamentary immunity. In their statement, they stressed that the immunity must apply to all on a non-discriminatory basis and that decisions on lifting immunity must be based on the merits of each specific case according to transparent and objective criteria without being subject to any political instrumentalisation.



MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ÇAVUŞOĞLU'S VISITS TO THE EU

In May, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu paid official visits to France, Austria and Bulgaria in order to discuss the situation in Syria and its current challenges.

Visit to France

On 9 May 2016, Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu participated in the Ministerial Meeting held in Paris to discuss the latest developments in Syria. Along with the French Foreign Minister which was hosting the meeting of the Friends of Syria Group and Turkey, representatives of the United States, the UK, the EU, Germany, Italy, Egypt, the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were also invited to the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, a joint declaration was adopted which includes commitments to support the rights of the Syrian people, to ensure the political transition based on the full implementation of the *Geneva Communiqué*, the promotion of the respect for a democratic and pluralistic Syria and to enhance actions regarding humanitarian aid.

Visit to Austria

During his visit on 17 May 2016, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Çavuşoğlu participated to the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) Meeting in Vienna. ISSG members aim to contribute to the efforts of political stabilisation and to the fight against terrorism. During the meeting, Minister Çavuşoğlu informed about the developments in Syria. After the ISSG Meeting, Minister Çavuşoğlu met Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz to discuss the visa liberalisation process, the situation in Syria and bilateral relations.

Visit to Bulgaria

Minister of Foreign Affairs Çavuşoğlu attended the 126th Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held in Sofia on 18 May 2016. During the session entitled "Democratic Security for All in Europe in Challenging Times", the leaders discussed about migration, the fight against terrorism, intolerance, xenophobia and discrimination in Europe. Minister Çavuşoğlu stressed that solidarity is imperative in tackling these challenges faced by the EU.

FORMER MINISTER FOR EU AFFAIRS BOZKIR'S VISITS TO EU

Former Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır paid an official visit to Strasbourg on 10-12 May 2016 to meet with officials from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

During his visit to Strasbourg, the then Minister Bozkır met separately with the President of

the European Parliament Martin Schulz and some Members of the Parliament representing different political groups. The then Minister Bozkır also met with the European Commissioner responsible for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos. During his visit to Strasbourg, the then Minister Bozkır also came

together with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland.

During his meeting with European officials, the then Minister Bozkır exchanged views on the latest developments in Turkey-EU relations with a special focus on the recent proposal made by the European Commission regarding visa-free travel

for Turkish citizens in the Schengen area. After his visit to Strasbourg, the then Minister Bozkır went to Brussels on 12-13 May 2016. He met separately with High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and

Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn. Afterwards, the then Minister Bozkır also came together with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynders. The agenda items of these meetings were mainly on the state of play in Turkey-EU relations and the visa liberalisation process.

COMMISSION STEPPED UP RESOURCES FOR FACILITY FOR REFUGEES IN TURKEY

The Commission announced on 26 May 2016 that it would deliver an extra 47 million euros within the framework of the Facility for Refugees fund. In that context, it has been explained that 20 million euros will be allocated to increase the capacity of the Turkish Coast Guard and 27 million euros in order to further facilitate the refugees' access to education. Moreover, the Commission added that the total amount

which has been contracted within the framework of the Facility has nowadays reached almost 240 million euros.

This commitment is part of the accelerated implementation of the Facility for Refugees which both parties had agreed on 18 March 2016. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey had been established by the Commission with the aim of coordinating actions that are financed in the terrain and to be able to

deliver further support to Syrian nationals who are benefiting from the temporary protection status in Turkey. Within the Framework of the Facility, the EU has committed to provide an initial 3 billion euros of additional resources aimed at helping the refugees currently in Turkey. The Commission also added that further funding for this particular programme will be followed in the upcoming months.



THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION: THE FOUNDING ACT OF A UNITED EUROPE

Each year on the 9 May, European institutions, leaders and the common public celebrate what constitutes the first step towards the building of a united Europe.

Deniz Servantie, IKV Junior Researcher

On the 9th May 1950, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Fourth French Republic, Robert Schuman, released a statement which would later go down in history as the founding act of the political and economic integration of Europe. Inspired and for the majority drafted by his fellow compatriot Jean Monnet, this was a proposal which initially placed French and German production of coal and steel under one single and common High Authority. Just five years after the successful annihilation of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, the idea behind was that coal and steel, which are key materials needed in waging a war should be put in common so as to definitely put an end to the risk of a new war devastating Europe. Schuman envisaged such an organisation to be open to the participation of other European countries. Nonetheless, it is of utmost importance to remind that in the context of burgeoning tensions between the two main victors of the Second World War, the United States and the Soviet Union, and the then clear division of Europe through the iron curtain (as Winston Churchill had coined it in his famous speech at Fulton), such an integration process would only concern countries west of the iron curtain. Through the Marshall Plan, the United States would actively support the economic reconstruction of Europe as to serve as a bulwark against possible Soviet expansionism towards Western Europe.

The Development of a United Europe

In his declaration, Schuman did clearly specify that by bringing together common economic interests of the European countries, it would be possible later to achieve gradual political integration, as a condition for the normalisation and pacification of relations between former warring countries. As such, Schuman explained the following in

his declaration: "Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a *de facto* solidarity. The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany". Indeed, the reintegration of a democratic and peaceful Germany was seen by the victors of WWII as one of the main conditions to successfully achieve the project of a united Europe. In 1951, the Treaty of Paris would as such bring together the six original countries of the project (France, West Germany, Benelux and Italy) under the heading of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). In 1957, through the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC), nations would further foster their economic cooperation. The key architects of this rapprochement were mostly pro-European leaders who had been involved in federalist groups in the 1920s and 1930s. French federalists played a driving force in that respect: Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman had been the main players embodying the idea of a united Europe.

The Schuman Declaration effectively marked the beginning of a post-WWII political landscape in Europe. The main actors which played an overarching role in European integration were consisting of France and Germany. As such, the founder of the Fifth French Republic Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor of the newly established Federal Republic of Germany (then known more colloquially as West Germany) Konrad Adenauer would symbolise the reconciliation between the former wartime powers. The declaration would also provide the basis for the creation and thus institutionalisation of European integration with the establishment of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Court of Justice. In further steps that



had been foreseen by Schuman, in 1957, the Treaty of Rome had established the European Economic Community (EEC) along with the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM). In 1967, with what is widely known as the "Merger Treaty", the executive bodies of the ECSC, the EEC and EURATOM would be combined together to form one single institutional structure. Further intergovernmental bodies and areas of activities were created later and which subsequently led to the creation of the European Union in 1993 through the Treaty of Maastricht.

The Declaration as of today remains one of the key founding events of the EU and of the development of European political and economic integration. In 1985, under the presidency of the European Commission of the Frenchman Jacques Delors, the leaders of the European Council had met in Milan as to decide upon the symbols of the Community. They thus adopted those that had been previously chosen within the framework of the Council of Europe and stated that the 9th May would be known as "Europe Day", commemorating the Schuman Declaration.

Turkey's EU Membership Perspective

Undoubtedly, the Schuman Declaration also has a special meaning for Turkey. Turkey, a key and long standing partner of the EU, has consistently shown its willingness to be a part of the greater European family and adheres to the principles elaborated in the declaration. As such, it is of utmost importance that EU membership remains a strategic objective of Turkey for the upcoming years and has remained as such for many years. At the occasion of Europe Day, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and the then Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır lodged messages respectively, commemorating the event and pointing out to Turkey's EU membership perspective.

As such, in his message, Minister Çavuşoğlu highlighted Turkey's continued efforts towards EU membership and touched upon the reforms that have been realised by Turkey in a variety of areas in that respect. He highlighted that the EU project which is overall a project which has ensured peace and stability in the whole European continent would gain significantly from

Turkey through its geostrategic location, strong economy along with effective foreign policy. Whilst welcoming the revitalisation of relations between the parties, Minister Çavuşoğlu also alluded to growing anti-migrant sentiments and the increasing trend of xenophobia within the EU. In this respect, he emphasised the need for the EU to take effective measures in accordance with the EU principle of "Unity in Diversity".

The then Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator Volkan Bozkır emphasised on 9 May 2016 Turkey's strategic role bridging Europe and Asia and its significance in contributing to the strengthening of universal values such as human rights and solidarity between different peoples. He further underlined that Turkey's EU membership actually constitutes a natural consequence of its very special history and geography. Moreover, the then Minister Bozkır stressed Turkey's determination in promoting further development of Turkey-EU relations, touching upon the momentum gained recently in accession negotiations as both parties have common interests and face common challenges such as the migration crisis.